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NEWTON ABBOT
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORTS
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR

1953

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H. M. DAVIES,
M.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
ASSISTANT COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER:
DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:
DAWLISH U.D.C.
NEWTON ABBOT R.D.C.
NEWTON ABBOT U.D.C.
TEIGNMOUTH U.D.C. AND
PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

TELEPHONE: NEWTON ABBOT 715/6.

COUNCIL OFFICES,

KINGSTEIGNTON ROAD,

NEWTON ABBOT.

NEWTON ABBOT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT - 1953.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

Gentlemen,

I present herewith my Annual Report for the year ended the 31st. December, 1953. The statistical part of the report shows that there has been a considerable rise in the Death rate compared with the very low figures in my last report.

The Death rate, even after being corrected to allow for the fact that many elderly people live in retirement in the town than is customary in the more industrialised parts of the Country, is higher than that of the Administrative County of Devon and the Country as a whole. One factor which has a bearing on this rise in the local Death rate is that for the whole year all deaths which occurred in the Wolborough Section of the Newton Abbot Hospital have been attributed to the Urban District paying no regard to the normal residence of the persons concerned. This anomaly has now been corrected.

The Infant Mortality rate is once again very low: five deaths having occurred in children under the age of one year, three of these being under one week old. These figures are most satisfactory.

Measles accounted for one hundred and ninety-six out of the two hundred and thirty-two cases of Infectious Diseases reported. This high incidence is to be expected in alternate years. Two cases of Acute Poliomyelitis were reported but only one of the cases was confirmed. Eleven cases were notified in 1952.

A Mass Radiography Unit visited the town in February, 1953, and the sessions in which facilities were open to the general public were most popular. Many more people attended for chest

X-rays than could be examined in the time available. It is hoped that the Unit will in future be able to visit the town for longer periods as the very early cases of pulmonary tuberculosis which can only be discovered by means of X-ray examination are now able to be satisfactorily treated in a comparatively short time. With the means which are now available for the diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis there is no doubt that the disease could be completely eradicated within the next ten years or so. The cost will be considerable but the eventual saving of life and suffering and also the need for and expense of Hospital beds will be infinitely more.

On one occasion during the year unpasteurised milk sold in the town was found to be infected with bovine tuberculosis. Immediate action was taken under the provisions of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 to see that all milk from the infected source was heat treated before being sold. During the time that this case was being investigated an order was made under the Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950, which took effect from the 2nd. December, 1953, under which all milk sold by retail would have to be "Pasteurised", "Sterilised", "Tuberculin tested" or "Accredited" milk from a single herd.

From a public health point of view this is a great advance as it is only by action such as this that cases of bovine tuberculosis can be eliminated.

In no case during 1953 did official action have to be taken under the National Assistance Acts 1948 and 1951 but unofficial action, which is always to be preferred, has been taken frequently. The problem of aged persons in the District who are without proper care and attention becomes more acute each year. Residential and hospital accommodation for these people is very limited and even in acute cases it is often not possible to find an immediate vacancy. An unfortunate feature of the Welfare Service in this direction is the difficulty which arises in those cases where there is a need for some minor medical attention not in itself sufficient to warrant the use of a Hospital bed, but sufficient to preclude admission to one of the County Council's Homes.

The immunisation campaign against Diphtheria has been most successful and the number of cases notified in England and Wales during the year were two hundred and sixty-six as compared with thirty four thousand six hundred and sixty two in

1943. It is obvious from these figures that a few more years of effort should see the final elimination of the disease from the Country. It is hoped that the present low incidence of the disease will not dissuade parents from the necessity of having their children immunised.

I should like to thank the Chairman, Councillors, and all members of the staff for the help and co-operation received during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,



Medical Officer of Health.

21st. December, 1954.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	4,153
Population Mid - 1953	16,980
Population 1951 Census	16,393
Rateable value as at 1st. January, 1953	£. 135,682
Rateable value as at 31st. December, 1953	£. 137,085
Product of 1d. rate as at 1st. April, 1953	£. 544


VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	114	94	208
Illegitimate	7	2	9
	<hr/> 121	<hr/> 96	<hr/> 217.
Crude Live Birth rate per 1000 total population	-	-	12.77
Corrected Live Birth rate per 1000 total population	-	-	13.54
Crude Live Birth rate per 1000 total population Administrative County of Devon	-	-	13.4
Corrected Live Birth rate per 1000 total population Administrative County of Devon	-	-	14.74
Live Birth rate per 1000 total population England and Wales	-	-	15.5

STILL BIRTHS.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Still Birth rate per 1000 total population	-	-	0.23
Still Birth rate per 1000 total live and still births	-	-	18.09
Still Birth rate per 1000 total live and still births England and Wales	-	-	22.4



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DEATHS.

The average age at death, from all causes, was found to be 69.40 years, as against 68.94 years for 1952. The average age of all male deaths was 67.80 and for female deaths 71.39.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
	177	143	320
Crude Death rate per 1000 total population			- 18.85
Corrected Death rate per 1000 total population			- 15.08
Crude Death rate per 1000 total population Administrative County of Devon			- 14.17
Corrected Death rate per 1000 total population Administrative County of Devon			- 10.77
Death rate per 1000 total population England and Wales			- 11.4

Infant Mortality.

(Death of Infants under One year)

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	1	3	4
Illegitimate	1	-	1
	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 3	<hr/> 5

Infant Mortality rate (Death of Infants under One year) per 1000 related live births	- 23.04
Infant Mortality rate Administrative County of Devon	- 25.56
Corresponding rate for England and Wales	- 26.8

Neo-Natal Mortality.

(Death of Infants under Four weeks)

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Neo-Natal Mortality rate (Death of Infants under Four weeks) per 1000 related live births	- 13.82
Neo-Natal Mortality rate Administrative County of Devon	- 17.92
Corresponding rate for England and Wales	- 17.7

Maternal Mortality.

No maternal deaths have occurred during the past year. The Maternal Mortality rate for the Administrative County of Devon is 0.88, six cases having occurred within the County during 1953.

AGE AT DEATH.

	Male.	Female.
Infants under 4 weeks	1	2
Infants under 1 year	1	1
1 -	1	-
5 -	1	1
15 -	-	1
25 -	5	3
45 -	43	29
65 -	63	29
75 and over	62	77
	<hr/> 177 <hr/>	<hr/> 143 <hr/>

Total: 320.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Male.	Female.
All causes	177	143
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	1
Syphilitic disease	2	-
	<hr/> 3 <hr/>	<hr/> 1 <hr/>
o/fwd.	3	1

CAUSES OF DEATH (continued)

	Male.	Female.
b/fwd.	3	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	6	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	9	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	5
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	4
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	17	8
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	1
Diabetes	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	21	26
Coronary disease, angina	24	20
Hypertension with heart disease	9	4
Other heart disease	27	23
Other circulatory disease	6	6
Influenza	1	3
Pneumonia	12	12
Bronchitis	6	5
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	5	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	5	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	6	-
Congenital malformations	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	12	8
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-
All other accidents	3	4
Suicide	1	1
Homicide and operations of war	1	-
	<u>177.</u>	<u>143.</u>



INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Scarlet Fever	1	1	2
Whooping Cough	16	12	28
Measles	102	94	196
Acute Pneumonia	2	-	2
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	-	1
Dysentery	-	1	1
Ophthalmia neonatorum	1	-	1
Erysipelas	-	1	1
	<u>123</u>	<u>109</u>	<u>232</u>

TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE PERIODS.

CASES.

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Infants under one year	-	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	-	-
5 -	-	1	1	1
15 -	2	1	-	-
25 -	1	2	-	-
35 -	5	1	-	-
45 -	2	1	1	-
55 -	1	-	-	-
65 and over	2	-	-	-
	<u>13</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>

Total: 22.

Of the twenty-two cases notified during the year two, two males - one pulmonary and one non-pulmonary, were in respect of residents at the Polish Hostel, Stover.

NEWTON ABBOT
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT
of
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.
1953

STAFF.
Chief Sanitary Inspector
C. E. Pethick, F.S.I.A.
Additional Sanitary Inspector.
R. G. Saunders, M.S.I.A.
Clerk
Miss A. Clarke.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I submit herewith the Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1953.

DRAINAGE:

A small increase is recorded in the number of premises where alterations, additions or reconstruction of drainage systems have taken place. The details in connection with the supervision of this work are as follows :-

Number of premises visited	139
Number of tests applied	242
Number of visits made	405

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS:

The following table sets out details of the work done under the provisions of the Factories Acts, 1939 and 1948 :-

1. <u>Inspections</u>	No. on Register.	Inspec- tions.	No. of written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted
i. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	17	41	1	-
ii. Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	25	128	2	-
iii. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	2	-	-	-

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS (contd.)

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Found	Remedied	Ref. to H.M. Inspr.	Ref. by H.M. Inspr.	Prose- cution
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No. of cases in which defects were found.

Want of cleanliness (S1)	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S2)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S3)	-	-	1	-
Inadequate ventilation (S4)	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S7)				
(a) insufficient	1	1	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	1	-	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
Other offences (not relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-

FOOD INSPECTION:

Meat:

The Ministry of Food continues to occupy the Council's Abattoir, slaughtering of stock for an area of four other local authorities being carried out as before.

There has been an increase in the total number of animals killed, the increase being in respect of all classes of animals except calves.

A complete inspection of animals slaughtered and dressed carcasses brought to the abattoir has been maintained, a duty which accounts for a considerable number of working hours of the Officers of this Department and a total of 738 visits.

The details following show the comparison in the number of animals slaughtered during the last five years and the table gives particulars of deceased carcasses :-

	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>
Bullocks	2,403	2,665	2,721	2,933	3,032
Calves	1,922	2,383	2,961	2,487	2,132
Sheep	10,587	11,624	9,565	9,868	10,486
Pigs	329	394	876	715	1,579

	CATTLE (excluding Cows)	COWS	CALVES	SHEEP	PIGS
NUMBER KILLED	2,224	808	2,132	10,486	1,579
NUMBER INSPECTED	2,224	811	2,133	10,515	1,601
All diseases other than Tuberculosis (i) Whole carcasses condemned	8	6	30	46	22
(ii) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	579	380	38	928	160
% of animals ins- pected affected by disease other than Tuberculosis	26.4%	47.6%	3.2%	9.3%	11.4%
Tuberculosis only (i) Whole carcasses condemned	16	27	6	-	6
(ii) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemed	111	144	-	-	88
% of animals inspected affected by Tuberculosis	5.7%	21.1%	0.28%	-	5.9%

FOOD INSPECTION (contd.)

Ice Cream.

Two factories in the Urban District produce Ice Cream with modern heat treatment plant and periodical visits have been paid to both premises. Working conditions have at all times been found to be satisfactory.

14 samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratories for examination with the following results :-

Grade 1 - 8 samples,
Grade 2 - 6 samples,
Grade 3 - Nil.
Grade 4 - Nil.

Comparison with previous years is shown by the following table :-

	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>
Grade 1	20%	42.5%	63.2%	57%	57.6%
Grade 2	30%	30%	13.2%	14.3%	42.4%
Grade 3	15%	22.5%	5.2%	21.4%	Nil
Grade 4	35%	5%	18.4%	7.1%	Nil

Periodical visits, 271 in all, have been paid to various premises where food is prepared or stored. Consideration is being given by the Government to a revision in the law relating to the sale of Food and Drugs, but it seems impossible to avoid the conclusion that suggestions put up by local authority organisations and professional associations are being very much watered down. Amendment of the law is, however, insufficient without the backing of public support and unhygienic practices in the handling of articles of food 'get by' without protest from the public.

In the course of the year the following foodstuffs have been found to be unfit for human consumption :-

FOOD INSPECTION (contd.)

Unsound Food.

57	Bullock carcasses and offal,
46	Sheep carcasses and offal,
30	Calf carcasses and offal,
28	Pig carcasses and offal,
137	Bovine Heads,
84	Pig's Heads,
3	Sheep's Heads,
2	Calf's Heads,
2,450	Organs and Parts,
2,789½	lbs. Beef,
530½	lbs. Mutton,
447	lbs. Pork,
113	lbs. Veal,
5	lbs. Liver,
33	lbs. Minced Beef,
31½	lbs. Ham,
43¼	lbs. Bacon,
375¾	lbs. Sausages,
12	tins Sausages,
292	tins Meat,
37	tins Fish,
108	tins Tomatoes,
17	tins Vegetables,
38	tins Soup,
55	tins Beans,
148	tins Peas,
157	tins Milk,
32	tins Jam,
1,028	tins Fruit,
3	lbs. Jellied Veal,
11¼	lbs. Gammon,
5	lbs. Kidney and fat,
9	jars Pickles
1	tin Coffee,
2	tins Spaghetti,
3	tins Mincemeat,
4	bottles Sauce,
31	boxes Cheese,
10	pkts. Cake Mixture,
21	lbs. Rolled Oats,
18	st. Whiting,
28	lbs. Mock Halibut Fillets,
1	st. Smoked Fillets,
2	st. Needles,
8	Chicken,
1	tin Milk Pudding,
1	tin Fruit Pudding,
1	jar Sandwich Spread,

FOOD INSPECTION (contd.)

Unsound food (contd.)

Unsound food was voluntarily surrendered in all cases, and it is pleasing to again report no necessity to formally seize the articles.

HOUSING.

There has been steady progress in dealing with housing matters but much remains to be done, and there is every indication that 1954 will show a stepping up of action to deal with sub-standard housing.

Including applicants for old persons dwellings the number of applications on the Council's files amounts to 480 cases.

In a number of these cases housing conditions are not satisfactory in every respect but may not be such as to warrant the construction of a Council house to meet the case.

Your Tenants Selection Sub-Committee have given indications of dealing with this aspect of the problem.

The following summary gives details of work in respect of this section of the work :-

Number of Council houses constructed	53
Number of private houses constructed	34
Number of houses inspected for defects	142
Number of inspections made	372
Number of informal notices served	68
Number of statutory notices served:	
(a) under Section 9, Housing Act, 1936.	6
(b) under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936.	4
(c) under Public Health Act, 1936.	4
Number of dwellings rendered fit	62

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

A weekly collection of house refuse and trade refuse has been maintained.

The refuse was disposed of by means of controlled tipping. The lower level at the Torquay Road site

PUBLIC CLEANSING (contd.)

was completed and tipping is now confined to land at the rear of Forde Road.

The year under review saw the end of collection of salvage after the scheme being in operation for 13 years. Difficulties had been experienced in disposing of stocks and of low prices being paid in 1952 and stocks accumulated to such an amount that early in 1953 the collection of paper was discontinued. Stocks were gradually disposed of during the year but prices were at such a level that revival of collection was not an economic proposition.

Thus ended an effort which had resulted in nearly £6,500 being received for the sale of waste materials.

RODENT CONTROL.

The methods of treatment recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries continue to be used for killing rats and mice, one member of the manual labour staff being employed part-time on this work.

Two treatments of the sewerage system of the town have been carried out and 67 premises have also been treated for rodent infestation involving 166 visits by Officers of this department.

STAFF.

There have been no staff changes during the year and thanks are due to Mr. Saunders and Miss Clark for the manner in which they have carried out their duties.

In conclusion I wish to record my appreciation of the support and consideration which has been extended to me by members of the Council and also to thank colleagues for their co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

C. E. PETHICK, F.S.I.A.
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

